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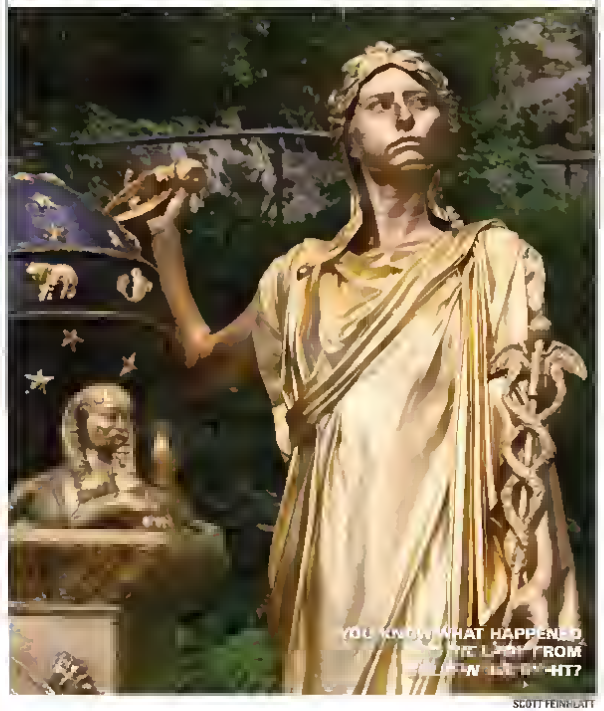

SCOTT FEINBLATT

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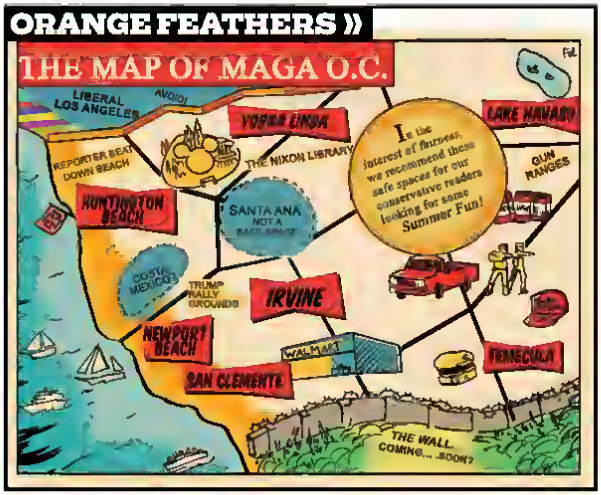
ORANGE FEATHERS »



FELIPE FLORES

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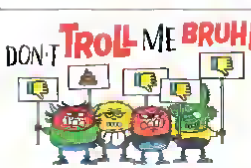

"I can't believe you posted Koolsville [it's the] dirtiest, nastiest tattoo shop in the world."
—Joe Cool, commenting on Taylor Hamby's "What's Left of Vintage Las Vegas? [Summer Travel 2018]" (June 21, 2018)

We respond You sound like a Venetian man, Joe

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SUMMER TRAVEL 2019

Only the smart people took their summer vacations during the current spell of May Gray/June Gloom. Many are up in Seattle right now, nursing sunburns after basking in the recent hot spell. But those of us back in OC? Buddy, can you spare a parka!?!

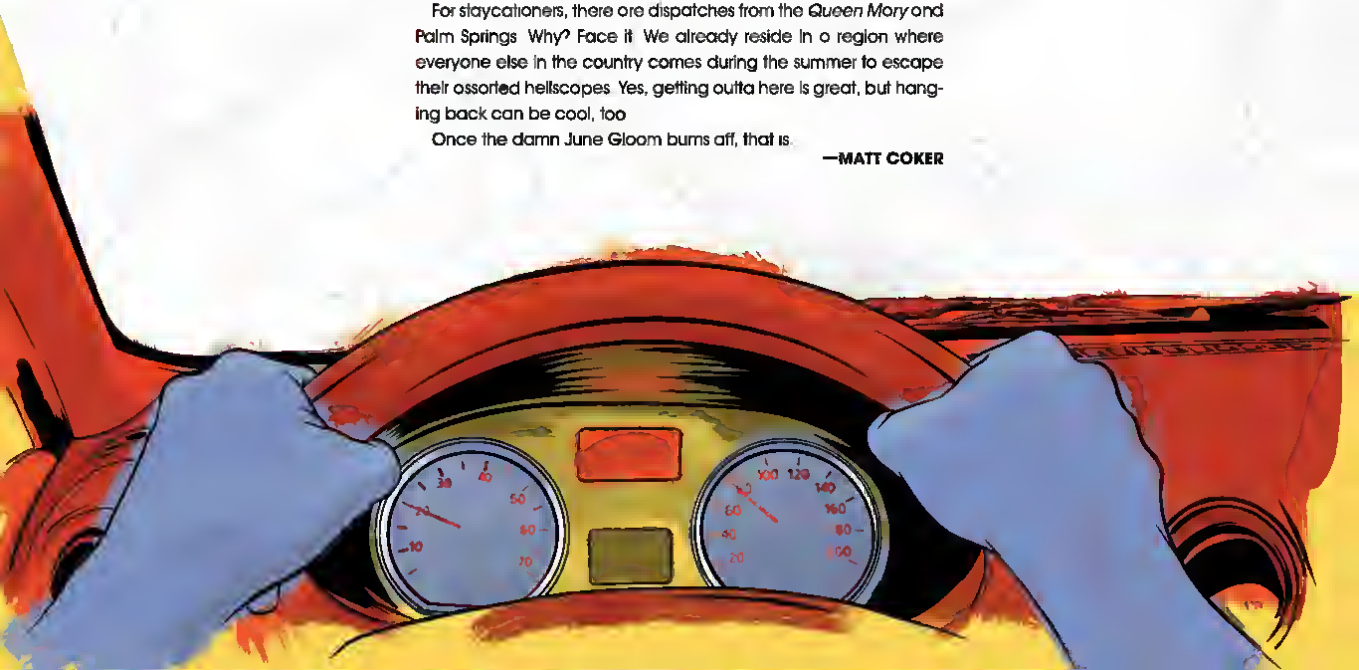
If you are in need of vacation ideas, the issue you are holding in your mittens cracks wise on places our writers have visited since the last summer travel issue. We're talking everywhere from rootin'-tootin' Jerome, Arizona, to the aloha'n' Hawaiian island of O'ahu and from sacred El Santuario de Chimayó in northern New Mexico to debauched Los Cabos in southern Baja.

Travel-tinged stories also populate our regular weekly sections such as Film and Music. In fact, if you combine the knowledge you get from this issue's Take of the Week with a stay at the Hicksville Pines Bed & Breakfast in Idyllwild, or follow our theater critic's amazing adventures in Northern Nevada, and you will have a playbook for getting high in the High Sierras.

For staycationers, there are dispatches from the *Queen Mary* and Palm Springs. Why? Face it. We already reside in a region where everyone else in the country comes during the summer to escape their assorted hellscapes. Yes, getting outta here is great, but hanging back can be cool, too.

Once the damn June Gloom burns off, that is.

—MATT COKER



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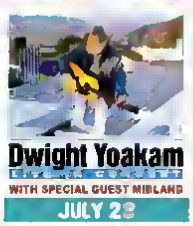

JULY 28

JULY 31

AUGUST 1

AUGUST 2

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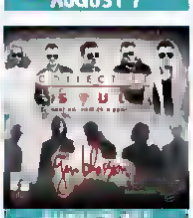

AUGUST 15

AUGUST 16

AUGUST 18

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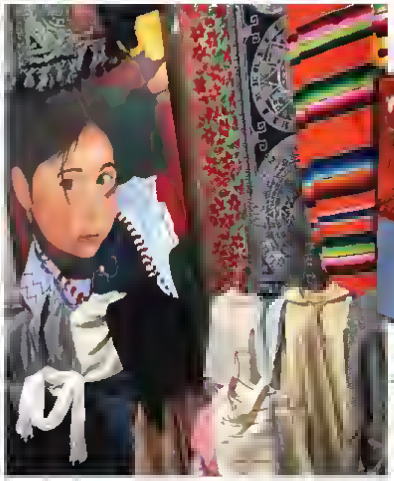

LOS BY MATT COKER

CABO WITHOUT THE WABO

SPARING MY LIVER WHILE LIVING THE HIGH LIFE AT SOLAZ, LOS CABOS

BY MATT COKER

My guide in San José del Cabo is explaining to me that he resides in Cabo San Lucas—the neighboring Baja California Sur city that is 25 minutes away, together, they form the Los Cabos metropolitan area—but he'll sleep in his office if he stays too late because of the number of drunken drivers on roads near his home at night.

Think of Cabo San Lucas as New Orleans and San José del Cabo as Palm Springs. Both have their charms, but each has a distinct vibe. Cabo San Lucas is where you go to party your ass off, and San José del Cabo is where you go to recover from Cabo San Lucas.

Those who have flown into Los Cabos International Airport and taken ground transportation to Cabo San Lucas should recognize San José del Cabo as the first town reached after driving through the desert toward the coast. But if you have not Cabo Waboed in a while, you may not recognize San José del Cabo. I could not believe the number of top-of-the-line resorts currently being carved into beachside cliffs as an SUV took me to the one I stayed at, Marriott International's 128-room **Solaz, A Luxury Collection Resort, Los Cabos** (*Km 18.5 Carretera Transpeninsular CSL-SJC, Cabo Real, San Jose del Cabo, 888-734-8507*), which only opened last September.

You will spend a pretty peso to stay in such a joint. I just checked the rate of the single room I stayed in: $389 per night. Many others in town cost more than a grand, and Solaz includes permanent residences that occupy entire floors of buildings and were on the market for $1 million to $3 million.

Those freaked out by headlines regarding drug cartel violence and assorted Mexico-bashing will be pleased to know there is plenty to see and do without leaving the gated Solaz property. Just a few doors away from where I put my head down at night is a museum dedicated to Baja's natural and manmade history. It's not huge, but there is enough to see to occupy an afternoon.

Actually, there is eye candy everywhere, as the resort includes more than 400 pieces of art curated by renowned Mexican artist Cesar Lopez Negrete. Gardens and ultra-modern structures are art pieces, as well. Solaz was recently named a finalist in the Resort category at the 15th annual *Hospitality Design* Project Awards, which are bestowed to locations around the world.

Among the multiple on-site bars and restaurants is La Cava, where I had my last dinner and a wine cave stocked with more than 2,500 vintages is located. (Most of my favorite wines of the trip came from Baja vineyards.) Bars are also strategically placed near the property's five pools, including two Olympic-size infinity options. I took a dip in one with a swim-up bar, where I grabbed a mojito, turned around and soaked in the stunning view of the Sea of Cortez. Whales, dolphins and the occasional boat pass by, but there are no sunsets as the flaming orb dips behind hills blocking Solaz. You can walk for miles along near-empty white sand and crashing surf, however.

Even better than sand for digging tootsies into is Himalayan salt. Solaz's Ojo de Liebre Spa boasts of being the only such facility in Baja with a Himalayan salt igloo. The attraction also includes saunas, indoor pools, high-pressure rain showers, communal and personal spas, and above- or underwater lounge chairs. Guests can get a locker, a massage and a facial, and the spa staff includes a meditation expert and a *curandero* (healer) who performs mind and body cleanses.

As much as my chakras need realigning, the parts of my March trip I recall most fondly happened off property, although all were arranged by Solaz's ever-helpful staff. The resort's personal-concierge service has a combination bellhop/concierge/butler assigned to you your whole trip. Make sure to get an international plan on your cellphone because you mostly communicate with him or her via texts.

Text your concierge to get you to the weekly Art Walk in San José del Cabo's historic plaza. The last time I saw so many white people in one place in Mexico was after a booze cruise dumped passengers off in Ensenada. Art, food, drinks, knickknacks and street performers fill not only the plaza, but also side streets lined with shops, eateries and art galleries. And of course there is a craft brewery, silly.

Also ask the Solaz butler about the day trip an Aussie fellow leads to a giant rock in the middle of nowhere. (He'll know what you mean.) Don't miss dinner in the foothills of the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains at Flora's Field Kitchen, which serves only what they grow, raise and make. However, my culinary highlight of the trip was lunch at Koi Sushi, which is next to the Walmart in Plaza San Lucas that caters to townies. It provided one of my top three all-time sushi experiences.

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MINING FOR HISTORY

SIFTING THROUGH JEROME'S SHIFTS

BY PATRICE MARSTERS

When I was a kid, my dad would come into my room early on a weekend morning and demand I get up. We would be leaving soon, destination to be revealed. We'd load up into the car, and soon, we'd be at some site of historic or cultural significance in Arizona. It could be Montezuma Castle, Bisbee, the Painted Desert or maybe Jerome.

A copper-mining camp that sprung up in the Black Hills in the late 1800s, Jerome lives on as a tourist destination catering to fans of the Old West. When the town was incorporated in 1899, it was named for Eugene Jerome, the secretary of United Verde Copper Co., which owned the local mining claims. As the copper deposits were excavated, the town boomed. But its foundations also began shifting; reportedly, some underground blasting weakened the earth supporting Jerome. Buildings began to crumble and, as in the case of the town jail, slide. You can still see that jail *(between Main Street and Hull Avenue, Jerome)*, its concrete structure about 200 feet from where it once stood.

And this relic of the Old West was the perfect stop for my little cowgirls during an excursion through the Copper State. Though I didn't exactly drag them from their slumber in the same manner as my dad, I did keep what I already knew of the town from those long-ago trips under wraps until they could discover it on their own.

We started with a history lesson at the **Mine Museum** *(200 Main St., Jerome, 928-634-5477)*. Just a dollar or two, which benefit the Jerome Historical Society, gains you admission to the secrets behind the onetime Wickedest Town In the West. In addition to the expected ancient mining equipment, old school desks and typewriters, you'll find a complete bar set-up, including a ubiquitous Faro board. Among photos of the town throughout its toddler years are examples of its Old West violence, including the Colt pistol used by Marshal Johnny Hudgens to stop three vigilantes on the town's main drag. Perhaps the most exciting, though, was the mysterious phone booth—well, it's really only a mystery to kids who've never seen such a thing in the wild. Without a communication device inside, both girls insisted on posing with cellphones, as though they needed to make private calls.

As is the case at most museums, you'll exit through a gift shop, which is loaded with the usual tourist-desired finds of items emblazoned with the city name and images of cactus and Old West heroes. Somewhere in my mug collection is a brightly colored vessel that proclaims, "London. Rome. Paris. Jerome." But on this trip, I instead headed into **Mooey Christmas & Udder Things** *(111 Jerome Ave., Jerome, 928-634-2604, www.mooeychristmas.com)*. Inside, multiple Christmas trees are decorated year-round, with music boxes and ornaments filling the shelves of the green-paneled store. There's also a collection of Egyptian glass pieces, each one accented with 24-karat gold.

More glass treasures can be found at the nearby **Nellie Bly Kaleidoscopes** *(136 Main St., Jerome, 928-634-0255, www.nellieblyscopes.com)*. Named for the journalist who traveled around the world in just 72 days in 1889 and '90, the shop claims to be "the largest brick-and-mortar kaleidoscope store in the world." The 'scopes are everywhere you look, designed by more than 90 artists in different shapes and offering a seemingly endless variety of patterns. Visitors are encouraged to give each one a whirl, but be gentle—as some of these beautiful shape-shifters are worth thousands of dollars.

All this eye candy made us hungry, so we went in search of food. We followed our noses and ended up at **Bobby D's BBQ** *(119 Jerome Ave., Jerome, 928-634-6235, bobbydsbbqjerome.com)*. It's located in the English Kitchen, a Chinese restaurant that, until 2007, was the longest continuously operated restaurant in Arizona. Despite the copper-colored tin ceiling and casual, modern vibe inside, we opted to sit outside on the large wood deck overlooking the hills. The barbecue platters come with cornbread and a side, we went with the thick-sliced brisket and upgraded to the crisp onion rings, both of which I slathered in sauces from the selection of six on the table. The amazing Arizona burger (which is served as a two-patty construction unless you ask for just one 4-ouncer) is topped with green chiles and sauteed onions, pepperjack cheese and a chipotle aioli, it's a meal in itself even without the accompanying side! If you're traveling with kids, Bobby D's offers generous portions for them, too, as well as a prickly pear margarita, made with homemade sweet and sour, or a Jerome Donkey, made with Copper City bourbon out of Tempe, for you.

With a hearty meal filling your belly, take a walk, noting the deep cracks in historical structures, one of the more famous of which is the **Liberty Theater** *(110 Jerome Ave., Jerome, 928-649-9016)*. Perhaps the most amusing abandoned building is the **Bartlett Hotel** *(Main Street and First Avenue, Jerome)*, which has been repurposed as a penny-shooting gallery, thanks to the creative minds at the Jerome Historical Society. From the gates above the hotel's grounds, you can toss pennies (and other denominations) at targets, knowing your coins will be used toward preserving and restoring the town. Actually, throwing your money here makes sense: Over the course of its history, the building housed a bank, a drugstore and the town's longest-running newspaper.

If you're staying in town, I hear the **Jerome Grand Hotel** *(200 Hill St., Jerome, 888-817-6788, jeromegrandhotel.net)* is amazing, but I also hear it's haunted, so … rather than deal with any potential night terrors, we headed for more stable ground. But on the way out, we had to stop at the **Douglas Mansion at Jerome State Historic Park** *(100 Douglas Rd., Jerome, 877-MY-PARKS, azstateparks.com/jerome)* because you can't leave a mining town without seeing some glow-in-the-dark rocks. It's, like, a rule or something. At the very least, it would have been letting my father down.

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THE EARTH IS SACRED

CHIMAYÓ PROVES IT

BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

My last recollections visiting **El Santuario de Chimayo** in northern New Mexico (*15 Santuario Dr., Chimayo, 505 351-9961; www holychamayo us*) are as a young boy with asthma-ridden lungs. The centuries-old Roman Catholic Church, the holiest pilgrimage site of its kind in the United States, is best known for the lore of its curative dirt culled from the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains that surround it. Inside the church rests the *pocito* room, where a tiny pit holds the sacred soil. Crutches line up on the wall just outside, an impressionable testament to the healing power of faith.

Once inside the cramped quarters of *el pocito*, my mother scooped mounds of dirt and rubbed the earth on my chest to relieve me of my condition. I never returned after that, nor did my asthma attacks.

In April, just a few days after Easter, I came back to the *santuario* for the first time in decades. The 6-acre compound sees about 300,000 visitors annually, with 10 percent of them making the pilgrimage by foot during Holy Week. Some of the faithful walk from as far as Albuquerque, an hour-and-a-half trip by car.

The grounds proved to be much quieter after Catholics had already celebrated their belief in Christ's resurrection. With only a few visitors on site, the nearby Santa Cruz River could be enjoyed in its full tranquility. The quietude extended to the numerous shrines around the compound. Rosaries are roped around the praying hands of a Virgin Mary statue at one stop. Votive candles, flowers and even more dangling rosaries decorate another.

Backed by scenic, lush foothills, the adobe Our Lord of Esquipulas chapel at the center of it all remains evocative of the early 1800s, when it was first built. That's when accounts of a miraculous apparition brought the church into existence.

One legend has it that on Good Friday in 1810, Don Bernardo Abeyta saw a beam of light by the Santa Cruz River and followed it to discover a half-buried crucifix. When the Penitente Brotherhood member brought it to a priest at another parish, the crucifix vanished and resurfaced where Abeyta first found it. Getting the message, he helped to build a small chapel at the apparition site. Another tale holds that a priest from the Guatemalan city of Esquipulas helped to settle the area before dying. When the Santa Cruz River flooded, locals found his body and the crucifix. Whatever the case, word spread about the holy dirt and its healing powers, making the *santuario* a mecca of folk Catholicism.

Origins aside, the compound is undergoing changes these days in an attempt to attract new visitors and sustain itself. Rancho de Chimayo restaurant and the surrounding gift shops always gave visitors a little more to spend time on in the area, but the *santuario* itself is far from a day-long destination. And with Santa Fe only a half-hour drive away, it doesn't really have to be.

But the revamping of the refuge continues. Behind the church stands a monument to New Mexico's three cultures, with sculptures of an Anglo cowboy, a Mexican *vaquero* and a Native American. Off to the side of the sanctuary is a bronze statue dedicated to Father Casimiro Roca, the late Spaniard priest blessed the holy dirt for decades, becoming synonymous with the *santuario* in cementing his local legend. Across the way, El Rincón de Don Bernardo Abeyta Welcome Center, a museum and gift shop, now stands where it didn't before.

For all that's new, familiar sights proved most comforting. Below the church's adobe arch, wooden doors swing open to a courtyard centered by a humble wooden crucifix. Inside the *santuario*, daily mass continues, open to all. After I took Eucharist, the priest ended the service by rejoicing "Happy Easter." Parishioners and tourists alike slowly left through the church's creaky, wooden doors.

Another exit off to the side led to the legendary *pocito* room.

Crutches still hung by the dozens, just as I remembered them. The walls outside the room are plastered with portraits of the infirmed who've been prayed for by loved ones making the pilgrimage. Through the entryway, the *pocito* appeared like a portal to the divine. I took a gardening trowel planted in the pit and scooped the soil into bags to take home. Soft in texture and beige in color, the holy dirt could easily be mistaken for Choco Milk powder, but church literature warns against eating or drinking it! Instead, the faithful are advised to rub the dirt on the parts of the body where healing is desired, followed by a short prayer.

After leaving the *pocito* room, I knelt on a wooden bench just outside it to pray, with my healing thoughts belonging to others. Whatever one believes about the blessed dirt and the hope it gives, visiting Chimayo brings truth to a universal spiritual principle. The splendor of the *pocito* room, Sangre de Cristo foothills and the Santa Cruz River makes evident the Earth is sacred.

GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM

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PHOTOS BY JOEL BEERS

BOOM TO BUST

THE HIGH SIERRAS LOWDOWN, FROM VOLCANO TO VIRGINIA CITY

BY JOEL BEERS

It's our first morning in town, and we're hanging outside the Bucket of Blood Saloon. A friendly old-timer wearing suspenders and a Yosemite Sam-like hat drooping from his head introduces himself and his mule (which is actually a donkey), says he's been married eight times, but not to the mule—yet—and asks if we'd like a picture with his four-legged associate for 3 bucks.

"His sign says a buck," my friend, Mike, informs the man.

Suddenly, another salty local, whom we'd talked to just a few minutes earlier, materializes and tells Sam to get off his corner. "Ain't your corner," Sam says. Guy pops him in the face and runs as Sam hits the ground. Awesome! Old-timey street theater re-enactment in an Old West town—isn't this fun? Except then, a real 21st-century black-and-white pulls up, a cop jumps out and asks for the intel while the other speeds off in pursuit of the assailant.

Welcome to Virginia City, Nevada, 26 miles southeast of Reno, established 1859, population 855, drunks EVERYWHERE, easily the screwiest town I've ever hung my hat in. How screwy is this boom town turned bust born in the wake of the Comstock Lode silver strike of 1859, where the 7 million tons of gold and silver from that lode and others—worth $600 million in today's money—helped the Union win a war and whose population swelled to a reported 25,000 in 1875, but by 1900, fewer than 3,000 were left? So screwy that it has hit the lottery twice (*Bonanza* was set in Virginia City, and in its second century, the real town caught a second life.)

Today, it feels as if the edges of its brick buildings are crumbling, but it's also remarkably well-preserved, both geriatric and authentic, equal parts calculating bucksterism (you can take any number of pieces of the real Old West home for a price) and swaggering edge, even a sort of rough-hewn pride in being a bit of a bastard. It's the kind of place where not one, not two, but THREE joints claim to be the newspaper office that Samuel Clemens worked at from 1862 to '64 and where Mark Twain was born, where the **Red Dog Saloon** *(76 North St., Virginia City; reddogvc.rocks)* hosted bands such as Big Brother and the Holding Company as well as Owsley acid-dropping freaks, where an opera house dating to 1863 has a bar next door, and it's fine to carry a revolver inside (but if it's loaded, could you at least tell the bartender?), where a series of Victorian-era cemeteries carved into windswept, desolate terraces convey a calming sense of disquieting beauty; and where, of course, you randomly enter a candy shop and realize it's run by the daughter of your journalism mentor at Fullerton College, Larry Taylor, who'd died the year before.

And then there's the 1876 **Silver City Hotel** *(28 N. C St., Virginia City, www.silverqueenhotel.net)*, which is the epitome of opulence. A hard climb up three flights of rickety stairs leads to a room with a window that's always open because there is no ventilation. The room is big enough to fit you and maybe the mule with a pretty mouth you're fixing to marry in the morning.

It's possible Virginia City has a slew of family-friendly attractions and charming features that aren't reminiscent of a simpler time of saloon brawls, horse theft and brothels, but I didn't see any—mostly because I was having too much fun to look.

Virginia City was the highpoint of a never-dull jaunt through a slice of the High Sierras cobbled together after numerous trips to the region by Mike Brainard and Danuta Tomzynski, my traveling companions, whose combined talents and interests range from writing and acting to painting, collecting Old West memorabilia and road-tripping. They've pieced a perfect, if not quite linear, route combining the natural splendor of camping at Lake Tahoe and **Calaveras Big Trees State Park** *(www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=551)* in the center, the refreshingly undeveloped and unroadside-attracted ghost town of **Bodie** *(www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=509)* on the east side, and a string of historic California Gold Rush towns along the west side, including the absolute standout, **Volcano**. It's another boom-and-bust mining town, population 110, but with two hotels, including the historic **St. George** *(16104 Main St., Volcano; www.stgeorgevolcano.com)*, the oldest continuously operating store in the state (a general store since 1852), a plaque commemorating the state's first observatory, where the Great Comet of 1861 was first discovered (I am not making this shit up), a cannon fired only once, during the Civil War, to intimidate any Reb sympathizers, and both an outdoor and indoor theater.

But it's got nothing on Virginia City, which is less a walk through some contrived, mocked-up Westworld than stepping in the middle of a big steaming pile of horse shit, sure, it's a bit jarring, but man, it's just so real. Hell, it wouldn't be surprising if a couple of crusty gamblers—it *is* in Nevada, so there's gambling, and maybe that explains the edge—faced off in the middle of the main drag, counted to 10, then started shooting.

Most likely all on account of some mule with a pretty mouth.

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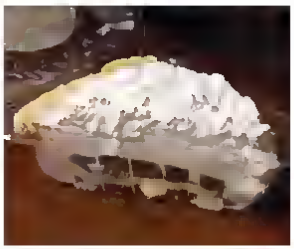
EAT. BEACH. REPEAT

SEVEN ICONIC FOODS OF O'AHU AND WHERE TO GET THEM

BY EDWIN GOEI

Like everyone else, you're going to O'ahu for the sand and the surf. But as the most populous Hawaiian island, O'ahu also packs food options that are as endless as the traffic to those beaches. Seek out and eat these seven must-have items on your next visit.



CHOCOLATE HAUPIA PIE

There are several bakeries on O'ahu that make a chocolate haupia pie, but the one you want is at **Ted's Bakery**. You could go to the actual shop in Haleiwa or, better yet, just stop into almost any supermarket and check the bakery section. If you're lucky, you'll find it being sold by the slice or, more economically, as a whole pie because one slice is never enough. This strata of salty pie crust, not-too-sweet chocolate mousse, creamy coconut pudding and fluffy whipped-cream topping is the ultimate chocolate haupia pie. Every layer is correctly proportioned and complementing of the next. *59-024 Kamehameha Hwy., Haleiwa, www.tedsbakery.com*

GARLIC SHRIMP

Giovanni's is arguably the most famous shrimp truck found on the North Shore of O'ahu. It hogs all the attention and has the longest queues, even though there are so many other such trucks on the island. Get in line, then eat your shrimp plate at the makeshift outdoor food court shaded by a tall, sinewy tree. The shrimp scampi is undeniably good if not something you can make at home with some fresh shrimp, olive oil, minced garlic and lemon. But even if you *can* re-create it, it won't taste the same because an essential component will be missing: the experience of having it at O'ahu's idyllic North Shore. Plus, doing so allows you to brag on social media that you've eaten at the island's most famous shrimp truck. *66-472 Kamehameha Hwy., Haleiwa, giovannisshrimptruck.com*

MANAPUA

Ask the locals where to get the best manapua on O'ahu, and they'll likely tell you to go to Libby's. But there's a manapua chain called **Chun Wah Kam** that seems to be the most accessible from wherever you happen to be on the island. The manapua it makes is fluffy, sweet, and filled with some things you'd expect to be in a steamed bun (such as red beans) and some things you wouldn't (such as curry). The most popular is the char siu, which is chopped to hash and artificially colored to a rosy shade of pink. It tastes like pork candy. Eating one is a good snack, eating two counts as a meal. And if you're planning a day at the beach, there is no better picnic food. *Multiple locations, chunwahkam.com*

HAWAIIAN BREAKFAST

If you avoid **McDonald's** on the mainland, get over your aversion when you're in O'ahu if simply for the Local Breakfast Platter. It's one of those McDonald's specialties that you can only enjoy in the Aloha State. A platter consists of steamed rice, an omelet and your choice of Hawaiian breakfast meat—either Spam or Portuguese sausage. And because of the company's All-Day Breakfast push, the Local Breakfast can also be had for lunch or dinner. The increased availability seems to have only improved the quality, as it forces the meals to be cooked to order. The Spam will have that just-from-the-griddle crust, the Portuguese sausage will be juicy, and the egg creamy. All of it—of course, is perfect with rice, which you can season with not only a packet of Heinz ketchup, but also Aloha Soy Sauce, a locally produced brand. *Multiple locations, www.mcdonalds.com*

PLATE LUNCH

Zippy's, a Hawaiian plate-lunch fast-food chain with multiple locations on O'ahu, puts those on the mainland to shame. The so-called "Zip Pac" meal costs about $11 and contains the following proteins in a nod to all the cultures that have come to define modern Hawaiian cuisine: fish katsu, Korean barbecue beef, fried chicken and, of course, a slice of Spam. It's all served on a bed of rice showered with furikake, a substance whose magical qualities are equivalent to pixie dust. *Multiple locations, www.zippys.com*

POKE

If you want poke, don't buy it at a restaurant or resort; instead, go to a supermarket. If you can find a **Foodland**, all the better. It should be easy. There's a Foodland on virtually every corner of the island. Once you locate one, beeline it to the butcher section. There, for about $7, the counter person will build you a poke bowl brimming with marinated cubes of ahi (not the build-your-own stuff you see on the mainland) from a choice of at least half a dozen different flavors. The price would be a good deal for mediocre poke, but it's a steal when you consider how fresh and vibrant Foodland's always is. *Multiple locations, www.foodland.com.*

SHAVE ICE

Matsumoto Shave Ice is an institution. Although the shop has changed a bit after being remodeled, what's important has stayed the same: the shave ice, which still comes from a solid block that's turned into white fluff by a whirling metal contraption. A soup ladle molds the snowy substance into spheres before being doused with three syrup flavors of your choice. Opt for the tropical, which is a set combo of lilikoi, guava and coconut. Then ask for ice cream and azuki beans to be added as a base. The ice cream is a tradition and how shave ice should always be eaten because the more the shop has changed, the more you should want it to stay the same. *66-111 Kamehameha Hwy., Ste. 605, Haleiwa, matsumotoshaveice.com.*

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PHOTOS BY CHARISMA MADARANG

A GUIDE TO PALM SPRINGS
BY CHARISMA MADARANG

WHERE TO STAY

The Westcott

The street will be remarkably quiet, and you will wonder if you drove past it, but you didn't—just keep driving. The Westcott is housed in a low, single-story building that's painted stark white. Among the endless lineup of boutique hotels and mega resorts in Palm Springs, the Westcott might be as intimate as you can get. Operating as a hotel since the 1930s, the building was originally intended for guests of the legendary El Mirador Hotel who were looking for more discrete accommodations. There are 10 rooms on the property, each one fitted with Art Deco furniture handpicked by the owners. And every room faces the pool, a large area lined with wicker lounge chairs and rattan couches stuffed with pillows.

If you timed it right, you will be settled in by cocktail hour, which runs nightly from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Grab a premade mojito or wine—or both—while Michael, the pleasantest concierge you'll ever meet, gives you a tour of the grounds and brings your luggage to the room. The beds are big, roomy and soft as hell, and you may be tempted to end your day even if the sun's still out. *530 E. Mel Ave., Palm Springs, (760) 992-5410; www.thewestcott.com*

DINNER

Rooster and the Pig

The line builds up fast at the tiny strip-mall location and often spills into the parking lot, so try getting to Rooster and the Pig at least 30 minutes before it opens.

A quick glance at the menu of the Vietnamese-American restaurant of chef/owner Tai Spendley, and you will quickly realize there's nothing else like it in the city. Each meal is served with a small bowl of complimentary congee, aromatic and rich. The Vietnamese crispy rolls are essentially fresh spring rolls fried in hot oil—crunchy, chewy, meaty—with the spongy wood ear mushrooms and chicken coming together in a messy, addictive combination. Order the Jasmine Tea Leaf, a tangy, textured salad mixed with fermented tea leaves, napa cabbage, seeds and sweet peanuts—similar to lahpet thohk, but not quite as traditional, which isn't a bad thing. You won't want to leave without trying the panko-crusted rice ball filled with chicken and surrounded by a moat of sweet coconut yellow curry. It's the kind of dish you will think about on that slow drive back to Orange County. *356 S. Indian Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, (760) 832-6691; www.roosterandthepig.com*

DRINKS

Bootlegger Tiki

Located in the same space that housed the historic Don the Beachcomber restaurant, Bootlegger Tiki is keeping the kitschy culture alive with its row of hanging puffer-fish lamps (they're real), nude velvet paintings, false lauhala ceiling and moody red lighting.

Naturally, rum is the specialty here, and you'll find it in abundance on Bootlegger Tiki's roster of cocktails, including the slightly surprising and wonderful martini made with two types of rum, Suze, a French apéritif made from gentian root, and celery bitters. There's also the popular, tastefully comforting Pod Thai, with white rum and coconut. Among the other offerings, sans rum, is the Heart of the Sea, a sugar-fueled vodka soup spiked with lime that comes served in a pineapple, coconut or porcelain shell.

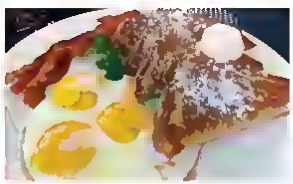
But for a damn good cocktail, get the Donn Beach 1934 Zombie. Named for the year it was dreamed up and the man himself, the drink stays true to its roots with three types of rum, syrupy Carribean falernum, grapefruit, cinnamon, grenadine, a squirt of lime and absinthe bitters. While there are thousands of interpretations of this boozy classic, Bootlegger Tiki's may be one of the best in the country. *1101 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, (760) 318-4154; www.bootleggertiki.com*

AFTER HOURS

New York Pizza Delivery

Affectionately abbreviated to NYPD by locals, this late-night pizza shop doubles as a dive bar. The atmosphere is a bit frenzied, with the smell of spilled alcohol and fresh pizza mingling in a way that isn't totally unpleasant.

There's a massive oven by the cash register that issues everything from a 28-inch pizza you could nap in to a personal pie. Expect to wait, though, a tourist from the hotel across the street may stumble in to join you, and a beer will help pass the time. The 20 or so minutes are worth it, and while what you get isn't exactly what you'd expect if you were on the East Coast, the pizzas are doughy, cheesy and greasy. *260 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, (760) 778-6973, nypd-pizza.com*



MORNING AFTER

John's Restaurant

To soak up your hangover, find your way to John's for a hearty, respectable breakfast—or dinner, as the impressive wall menu offers everything from burgers to country fried steak with gravy. This local mainstay has been around since the '70s, you'll order at the counter, grab a number and take a seat while you wait for someone to bring your food on a plastic tray. Most meals are immensely satisfying, and almost all of them are generously portioned.

The plate of French toast with sunny-side-up eggs and bacon is perfection. The bread is airy, lightly cooked in egg batter and not overly sweet. The butter is deeply satisfying and salty; you'll want an extra side of it because you'll run out, and each bite of that toast deserves a dab. The bacon is thin, crispy and just right for dipping into the yolky eggs, which are solid-ish on the bottom and still creamy on top. If you're feeling daring, stack a large piece of buttered French toast with bacon, then dip it all in the yolk. Butter not optional. *900 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, (760) 327-8522; www.johnsrestaurantpalmsprings.com*

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Not enough Palm Springs for you? Visit ocweekly.com for an extended version of this guide.

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

HOW A QUEEN MAOE OUR LONG BEACH STAYCATIONS

BY ANNE MARIE PANORINGAN

"The *Queen Mary* is the closest thing to a living being that I ever commanded; she even breathes."

—Captain J. Treasure Jones, the vessel's last skipper

How do I describe my fascination with an ocean liner? It likely has to do with my lack of actual seafaring experience. I wasn't expecting *The Love Boat*, but at the very least, a sense of nobility when boarding and exploring this vessel fit for royalty. I had barely 24 hours to get acquainted with the *Queen Mary* yet there was so much ground to cover, figuratively and literally.

The RMS *Queen Mary* was owned and operated by the Cunard Line. Construction began on "Job #534" in December 1930 and was completed in September 1934. *Mary*'s May 27, 1936 maiden voyage put her on a designated route from Southampton, England, to New York City, with a temporary stop in Cherbourg, France. During wartime, she was drafted to transport supplies and military for six steady years.

After checking in, I quickly realized how long the hallways are. From our cabin to the elevators was quite the hike—not that I was complaining. We were certainly getting our steps in that night! Research taught me that when *Queen Mary* was a luxury liner, cabin class was based on the boat's pitching movement at sea. First-class assignments were in the middle of the ship, and second-class was farthest aft, leaving third at the farthest forward.

Our meal that night was at Chelsea Chowder House and Bar. Panoramic views of downtown Long Beach welcomed us as we browsed the selections. As much as I craved piping-hot rolls slathered in sea-salted butter, we chose a newer dish of avocado fries with Tajin aioli to start. A diverse listing of surf and turf preparations, not to mention a quartet of chowders, made for a tough decision, so we opted for a Chelsea salad while waiting for our lobster boil. Candied walnuts and cucumbers crunched alongside tomato and feta chunks, while tart balsamic gave a pleasant bite.

The highlight of dinner, our boil featured a whole, 1-plus-pound lobster. Its serving platter was framed with corn cobs and generous amounts of linguiça sausage, red potatoes and steamed clams. After a cursory lesson in breaking down shellfish, we tore into dinner with gusto, relieved we hadn't filled our bellies with bread. We won the battle of us versus the lobster, although the sides could've easily fed more.

Despite the wind picking up, we intended to walk off our seafood. The manager on duty recommended heading up one level to the Sun Deck, the only floor that would allow passengers to circle the entire perimeter. At the far end of the liner, we stumbled upon its wedding gazebo. In *RMS Queen Mary Manual* by Gary Chambers, Commodore Everette Hoard stated in his foreword, "An estimated 55 million people have visited the ship in Long Beach since [its] opening in May of 1971 as a hotel, attraction and place for special events. More than 10,000 weddings have been performed onboard the majestic liner." To say couples consider this a special place is quite the understatement.

Below that, on the Promenade Deck, we cruised past photographs of celebrities from decades past who graced the walkways. We swung by the Observation Bar for a nightcap, its dim lighting giving the Art Deco lounge a moody vibe. Trekking down one more staircase to our quarters, we paused in front of the 24-hour fitness center to gawk at a retro exhibit of workout equipment. Also on this side of M-Deck is a silver and china display with detailed descriptions of the many events at which pieces were prominently used.

Inside our room, modern comforts such as wifi and Direct TV kept us entertained. Ben Sherman's British toiletries blended argan oil and citrus bergamia. We noticed a set of "fresh water" shower fixtures in addition to the standard hot/cold. A fold-open desk maximized space and doubled as a nightstand. Plus, an abundance of shelving could display photos, books and stationery. The most notable feature was an impressive vanity between the bathroom and our bed. With a press of a button, the entire room would fill with light. Cabin designers clearly understood the importance of grooming and appearances, as many hotels still aren't very accommodating with mirrors and lighting.

The next morning, we grazed on a quinoa breakfast bowl at Promenade Cafe while discussing *Queen Mary*'s food service with its food-and-beverage director. Projects in the works included a Saturday, outdoor brunch to rival the ship's already impressive Sunday service, plus a grab-and-go outlet of substantial selections to accommodate tour visitors seeking quick bites or guests checking in after hours.

Visitor access includes the Wheelhouse, where one can understand the complexities of the ship's navigation control center. Children of all ages will appreciate the Shipyard, which houses a replica of the ocean liner made from 250,000 LEGO bricks. However, the preferred way to explore is with a tour guide. Attention to significant particulars, including the 56 varieties of wood used, won't be glossed over. The glamorous Queens Lounge, with its striking floor-to-ceiling details, left us in awe. The Grand Salon, where Sunday brunch is served, is an impressive layout to behold.

Stepping beyond a casual visit, being a part of the charm and nostalgia that is the *Queen Mary* made for a staycation I thoroughly enjoyed. For me, travel isn't necessarily about distance. Rather, it's enjoying a destination where I don't have to make my bed.

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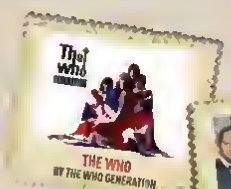

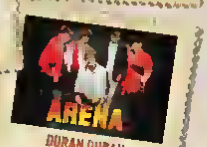

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fri/06/21

[CONCERT]

Movin' the Crowd

Eric B. & Rakim

It's hard to believe, at least from this standpoint, that Eric B. & Rakim continue to chooge along. The workman-like duo have been going hard since their reunion in 2016, after a period of 23 years when they weren't. With their slick rhymes and gritty beats, they're heading out on a brief tour, which includes a stop in Anaheim. For those hip-hop-heads who didn't have a chance to see them in their heyday, or young fans down to check out some legends, there will be a heavy dose of material from their golden age, which ended in 1992. Who knows how long the duo will want to continue together this time around?

Eric B. & Rakim at City National Grove of Anaheim, 2200 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 712-2700; www.citynationalgroveofanaheim.com. 8 p.m. $29.50-$45. All ages. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[FILM]

Divine Trash

Pink Flamingos

The first (and most iconic) in John Waters' Trash Trilogy, *Pink Flamingos* made known to the masses not only the superb entity that is Divine, but also the perfectly weird dark humor that is wholly unique to Waters. This was actually his eighth film (several of which had already starred Divine), but it's the rocket that sent both Waters and Divine into cult super-stardom. Two rival families vie for the title of Filthiest Person Alive, and (SPOILER ALERT, if you didn't already know) the film ends with its star eating actual dog shit. If you haven't had the pleasure, now's your chance to see *Pink Flamingos* on the big screen and revel in all its glorious depravity.

Pink Flamingos at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Ste. 100, Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422; thefridacinema.org. 11:55 p.m., also Sat. $7-$10. —ERIN DEWITT

sat/06/22

[FOOD & DRINK]

Keep on Chuggin'

Michelada Throwdown

Bloody Mary, eat your heart out; Micheladas are the new drink staple to cure that gnarly hangover at brunch. Lovers of the tangy, tomato-based, spicy beer beverage are invited to today's epic Michelada Throwdown at OC Market Place, where mixologists and casual makers will compete for the best-tasting recipe. Contestants can sign up online prior to the event date, and guests will be able to sample and/or buy their favorites. Non-drinkers can have fun, too, by checking out the mini car show, games, food vendors, live music and more surprises. Free entry into the OC Market Place is included with every ticket purchase for more fun throughout the day.

Michelada Throwdown at OC Market Place, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 557-0420; www.ocfair.com. 10 a.m. $10. —AIMEE MURILLO

[MOTORCYCLES]

LET'S RIDE!

Born Free Motorcycle Show & Festival

Motorcycles represent not only a convenient option to wind through California traffic, but also a way of life. Any SoCal rider worth their weight in leather is familiar with the scenic Santiago Canyon route, and this weekend, that road will lead them straight to the Born Free Motorcycle Show. Now celebrating its 11th year, Born Free is the premier chopper show on the West Coast. So, saddle up, ride on out, and behold the world-class custom new and vintage bikes while mingling with your brothers and sisters.

Born Free Motorcycle Show & Festival at Silverado Canyon, 5305 E. Santiago Canyon Rd., Silverado, www.bornfreeshow.com. 10 a.m. $15-$20, kids 12 and younger, as well as veteran and active military members, free. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

sun/06/23

[CONCERT]

Time Warped

Warpedapalooza

Tonight's fun tribute showcase at Garden Amp is a testament to the staying power of the '90s/aughts alternative-rock scenes, which have been regaining momentum as of late. Relive your emo youth or grunge phase through Warpedapalooza, a double-billed event with 90s Rock Show, who will perform songs originally by groups Green Day, Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Soundgarden. Respectively, Emo After Dark will be touting the hits of the following decade by Paramore, blink-182, the Killers, My Chemical Romance and others. Show up to enjoy the memorable musical era of your choice—or both!

Warpedapalooza. 90s vs. Y2K Tribute Night at Garden Amp, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove, (949) 415-8544, gardenamp.com. 5:30 p.m. $15 —AIMEE MURILLO

[HEALTH & FITNESS]

Totally Awesome

Awesome '80s Run

If you were waiting for an exhilarating new way to exercise or compete in a 5K or 10K race, consider today's 1980s-themed event. Seasoned and novice runners are invited to don brightly colored '80s fitness attire and participate on Shoreline Aquatic Park non-intensive flat running course, with the option to run, walk or dance while observing the beaches and bay along the way. Whether you opt for the 10K or 5K distance, you'll still party with your fellow contestants at the finish line, where a live band will play the hits of the '80s for a dance party. Winners will receive prizes at the awards ceremony, and all participants get a cool fanny pack.

Awesome '80s Run at Shoreline Aquatic Park, 200 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, awesome80srun.com. 6 a.m. 5K registration, $25-$43; 10K, $30-$48 —AIMEE MURILLO

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mon/06/24

[CONCERT]

Experiments in Funk

Mad Science Project

Get your funk on this weekend with '80s cover band Mad Science Project as they thump out classic hits from Prince, Morris Day, Lenny Kravitz, Cameo and more! There are plenty of OC retro nights and bands that cover classic rock and New Wave, but legendary funk-rock and soul often fall by the wayside. Join this crew for a ferocious flashback to heavy bass, percussion and synthesizers—not to mention parachute pants—then bust out your best running man and body rolls.

Mad Science Project at Sandpiper Lounge, 1183 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 494-4694, www.facebook.com/thesandpiperlounge. 9:30 p.m. $5. 21+ —SR DAVIES

tue/06/25

[FILM]

Who Are You?

Quadrophenia

Mods and rockers attempted escape from Britain's dreary early-'60s class- and race-defined social constraints by inventing the concept of teenage resistance; it was mostly futile, if boisterous and sexy. In 1979's *Quadrophenia*, Pete Townsend's rock opera turned feature film, one alienated anti-hero struggles to reconcile not just his own social schizophrenia, but also four collectively lived personality disorders, one for each member of the Who, as it happens, with songs from the original album. Alienation was never so cool, desperate and heartfelt. This ambitious political and emotional coming-of-age story—not a musical—asks a lot of questions, including "Can You See the Real Me?"

Quadrophenia at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Ste. 100, Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422, thefridacinema.org. 2:30 & 5:30 p.m. $7-$10.50. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

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wed/06/26

[FAMILY EVENTS]

UP, UP AND AWAY

'DC Superheroes'

Need to send the kiddos to a sensible escape this summer? The ongoing "DC Superheroes" exhibit at Discovery Cube is a treat for children and adults. This fun, educational exhibit immerses you in adventure and allows you to be superheroes for a day, as you investigate crime in Gotham City and meet Batman, Green Lantern, Aquaman, Supergirl and others. There are also interactive displays and laboratories in which you'll learn about the science behind your favorite masked crime fighter's superpowers and even hone your own powers, too. Stop the bad guys, save the world, hang with the Justice League—all in a day's work!

"DC Superheroes" at Discovery Cube, 2500 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 542-2823, oc.discoverycube.org. 10 a.m. Through Sept. 8. $14.95-$19.95. —AIMEE MURILLO

[FOOD & DRINK]

Sail Away

Yacht & Bothered Summer Kick-Off Party

This is the season of warm beaches, the sun's rays and ocean liners stretching across blue horizons. But if you or your friends can't or won't splurge for a cruise, then hit up your friends to meet at Malarky's Pub tonight for a makeshift yacht experience. For one night only, Malarky's turns into the *SS Malarky's*, a yacht-themed party at which guests can enjoy live music, drinks specials and a complimentary food buffet. No SPF or Dramamine needed, no sharks to watch out for, and best of all, you can celebrate the arrival of summer with good pals and fine food close to the ocean. Yacht attire is suggested, so break out the nautical wear you've been saving for such an occasion and have a whale of a time!

Yacht & Bothered Summer Kick-Off Party at Malarky's Irish Pub, 3011 Newport Blvd., Newport Beach, (949) 675-2340, www.malarkyspub.com. 6 p.m. Free. All ages before 10 p.m., 21+ after. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/06/27

[CONCERT]

Party for One

Carly Rae Jepsen

Despite scoring a monster hit earlier this decade, Carly Rae Jepsen hasn't achieved the monster, mainstream, stadium-filling pop stardom for which she seemed destined. Instead, she has steadily cultivated a following and earned critical acclaim with her smart lyrics and intricate compositions. In May, the Canadian singer released her fourth studio album, *Dedicated*, which is as polished as anything she's ever done. After all these years, people are looking past "Call Me Maybe" and seeing her as a unique singer/songwriter.

Carly Rae Jepsen at the House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Ste. 337, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim. 7 p.m. $42.50. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[ART]

GETTING PHYSICAL

'Bob Mizer: Vintage Physique'

The late Bob Mizer was one of the many progenitors of male smut in the 1950s, and we thank him for it. With the publishing of his *Physique Pictorial* magazine, which featured his own photography of male beefcake bodybuilders and models, he catered to a market that longed for such imagery—and faced obscenity charges for disseminating suggestive material through the mail. Long Beach Museum of Art holds a retrospective of the late photographer/filmmaker's work with a selection of rarely seen photographs taken during the period of the 1940s through the 1960s. These visuals illustrate a little-known facet of American life and highlight the underground channels through which gay males connected during a sexually repressed time. Most of all, Mizer's unrelenting passion and vision for his art comes across in this well-deserved tribute.

"Bob Mizer: Vintage Physique" at Long Beach Museum of Art, 2300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, (562) 439-2119, www.lbma.org. 11 a.m. Through Sept. 8. $8-$10. —AIMEE MURILLO

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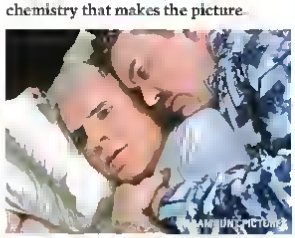
The Road Worst Traveled

What makes a great travel movie? Complications

BY MATT COKER

Taking a movie character out of a daily routine and into a car, train, plane, ocean liner or the great wide open immediately adds twists, turns and fish-out-of-water elements. This can be true of dramas, comedies, thrillers, romance movies and, should the vehicle launch into space, sci-fi. But some of the best movies built around journeys feature trips in which things do not go as planned. What follows are seven faves.

Midnight Run. In Martin Brest's 1988 action-comedy, bounty hunter Jack (Robert De Niro) is getting $100,000 from a bail bondsman (Joe Pantoliano) to take mob accountant Duke (Charles Grodin) from New York to Los Angeles. Thanks to complications posed by a mob boss (Dennis Farina), an FBI agent (Yaphet Kotto) and a rival bounty hunter (John Ashton), Jack and Duke go from plane to train to bus to stolen cars to hitchhiking across the country. De Niro's patented take-no-shit attitude and Grodin's annoying deadpan inquisitiveness drive the story, but it's their chemistry that makes the picture.



Planes, Trains and Automobiles. Given what I just wrote, no wonder John Hughes' 1987 comedy immediately springs to mind, but it's also arguably the best film from the mind that gave us *Sixteen Candles*, *The Breakfast Club* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. Ad exec Neal (Steve Martin) tries desperately to get home to his family in Chicago for Thanksgiving, but all manner of transportation fails him for assorted reasons. This all starts with loudmouthed traveling salesman Del (John Candy) inadvertently taking Neal's cab. Through a series of misfortunes, the pair become traveling partners and, as with *Midnight Run*'s Jack and Duke, unlikely buddies.

O Brother, Where Art Thou? The Coen brothers' 2000 comedy masterpiece sets Homer's *The Odyssey* in rural Mississippi during the Great Depression. Prisoners Everett (George Clooney), Pete (John Turturro) and Delmar (Tim Blake Nelson) escape from a chain gang to retrieve treasure Everett says he buried. While being chased, the trio encounter just about every cultural and historical touchstone that occurred during that era in the South. The American folk soundtrack produced by T Bone Burnett, who began working on the project while the Coens were still finishing their script, deservedly became a sensation all by itself.

Y Tu Mamá También (And Your Mother Too). Alfonso Cuarón's 2001 erotic drama also has a journey set amid historical events—in this case, the rise of the opposition to 71 years of rule by Institutional Revolutionary Party presidents in Mexico. After finding out her husband cheated on her, Luisa (Maribel Verdú) goes on a road trip with his younger cousin Tenoch (Diego Luna), whose father is a high-ranking political official, and the teen boy's pal Julio (Gael García Bernal), who hails from a leftist, middle-class family. Luisa seduces both along the way, which first leads to animosity between the teens and, later, a three-way. I'm next to positive this was the first thing I saw Luna and Bernal in, and both, along with Verdú and five-time Oscar winner Cuarón, went on to produce more amazing work after opening the world's eyes to Mexican cinema.

A Night At the Opera. Four years after one of the funniest Marx Brothers screwball comedies (*Monkey Business*) was set on a transatlantic ocean liner bound for America, Groucho, Harpo and Chico wind up in a ship headed back to Europe in Sam Wood's 1935 box-office smash that the National Film Registry preserved because it is "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant." *A Night At the Opera* includes one of the most famous, memorable and hilarious scenes ever shot, as, one by one, nearly every cast member and extra fill Groucho's closet-sized stateroom.

Road to Morocco. *Monkey Business* and *A Night At the Opera* featured most of its top stars playing stowaways, which are roles Bob Hope and Bing Crosby fill at the beginning of the third of their seven *Road to...* pictures. Orville (Hope) smoking in a powder room causes a freighter to explode, and he and his pal Jeff (Crosby) float alone on wreckage off the top tip of Africa, where they joke about eating each other before spotting land. They end up on camels bound for Morocco, where they each make plays at a princess (Dorothy Lamour) who is supposed to marry a sheik (Anthony Quinn). Hope and Crosby sing "(We're Off on the) Road to Morocco" and are joined by Lamour and, if I am remembering correctly, one of the camels on "Moonlight Becomes You."

Into the Wild. And now for something completely different: producer/director/writer Sean Penn's harrowing 2007 adaptation of Jon Krakauer's nonfiction book about Chris McCandless (Emile Hirsch), a young man who makes a cross-country trip to live off the land in the wilds of Alaska. He believes he is totally prepared, which he totally is not. Despite knowing how *Into the Wild* was going to end, Hirsch's excellent performance in Penn's poignant character study (and one of the best American films of the decade) still had me rooting for McCandless.

Also rans: *Dumb and Dumber*; *Thelma and Louise*; *Rain Man*, *Tommy Boy*; *Easy Rider*; *The Motorcycle Diaries*; *Bonnie and Clyde*; *It Happened One Night*; *National Lampoon's Vacation*; *The Last Detail*, *Lost In Translation*; *Sideways*; *Nebraska*; *Old Joy*, *Badlands*, *Little Miss Sunshine*; *Blues Brothers*; *The Darjeeling Limited*; *Star Man*, *The Straight Story*; *The Puffy Chair*; *Wild*, *Wild At Heart*; *Something Wild*; and *The Wizard of Oz*.

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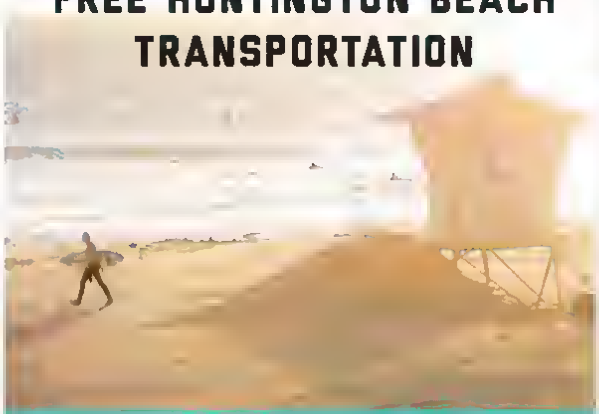

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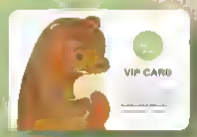

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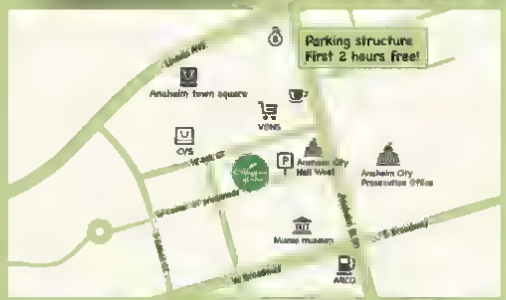

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Coming for the Projectionist

BY MATT COKER

5B. San Francisco General Hospital's nurses emphasize humanity and consideration of holistic well-being in the midst of the devastating AIDS crisis and ensuing public panic. *Edwards Aliso Viejo Stadium 20, (844) 462-7342. Thurs., June 20, 11:15 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7:25 & 10:10 p.m. $11.45-$14.70; also at Edwards University Town Center 6, (844) 462-7342. Thurs., June 20, 1:10, 3:45 & 6:30 p.m. $10.20-$13.25.*

Halston. The fashion designer became a household name in the 1970s, only to see his empire facing obliteration by the Wall Street era. *UA Long Beach 6 (844) 462-7342. Thurs., June 20, 12:20, 3, 5:40 & 8:20 p.m. $10.05-$12.95.*

Pavarotti. Enjoy intimate interviews, historic performances and never-before-seen footage. *Edwards Westpark 8, (844) 462-7342. Thurs., June 20, 12:40, 3:40, 6:40 & 9:40 p.m. $10.20-$13.20; also at UA Long Beach 6, (844) 462-7342. Thurs., June 20, 7:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 12:30, 3:30, 6:30 & 9:30 p.m., Sun.-Thurs., June 27, 1, 4:15 & 7:30 p.m. $10.05-$12.95.*

Conan the Barbarian. John Milius' 1982 adventure fantasy is about a boy forced into slavery after seeing his parents and entire village wiped out by a savage warlord (James Earl Jones). Growing up to become a fearless fighter (Arnold Schwarzenegger), he is set free and plots revenge against the warlord. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 20, 2:30, 5:00 & 8 p.m. and Sun., 2:30 & 5:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

The Gamble House. This 2017 documentary centers on the completion of one of the shining examples of American architecture, the Gamble House, which is known to *Back to the Future* fans as Doc Brown's house. *Laguna Art Museum, (949) 494-8971. Thurs., June 20, 6 p.m. Free.*

YASSS! Films based on young adult novels screen. *Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Thurs., June 20 & 27, 6 p.m. Free.*

Pick It Up! Ska in the '90s. Taylor Mordens new rockumentary is about the rise and fall in the U.S. of third-wave ska music in the 1990s. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Thurs., June 20, 7 & 9:30 p.m. $14.*

To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar. Three Manhattan drag queens (Patrick Swayze, John Leguizamo and Wesley Snipes) road-trip to Los Angeles. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 20, 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

The Fall of the American Empire. A shy and insecure delivery truck driver tries to dispose of bags of cash he picked up at a crime scene. *UA Long Beach 6, (844) 462-7342. Fri.-Sat., noon, 3, 6 & 9 p.m., Sun.-Thurs., June 27, 12:30, 3:45 & 7 p.m. $10.05-$12.95.*

Leto. Kirill Serebrennikov's 2018 musical biography honors the USSR's underground, state-defying, 1980s rock scene. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri.-Sat., 2:30, 5 & 7:30 p.m., Sun., 2:30 & 5:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Grease. Aussie exchange student Sandy (Olivia Newton-John) and bad-boy gang leader Danny (John Travolta) hooked up during the summer, but their relationship changes once school starts. *Carbon Canyon Park; ocparks.com. Fri., 6 p.m. Free.*

Meet Me in St. Louis. Four sisters learn lessons of life and love as they prepare for a reluctant move to New York. *Orange County Great Park, (949) 724-6880. Fri., 8:15 p.m. Free.*

Sleepaway Camp II: Unhappy Campers. A supposedly reformed summer camp worker (Pamela Springsteen) reverts to her old ways when campers start misbehaving. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri., 8:30 p.m. $10.50.*

Pink Flamingos. Baltimore's notorious underground criminal Divine (Divine) tries to stop a sleazy couple (David Lochary and Mink Stole) from seizing her tabloid-earned title as "The Filthiest Person Alive." *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri.-Sat., 11:55 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

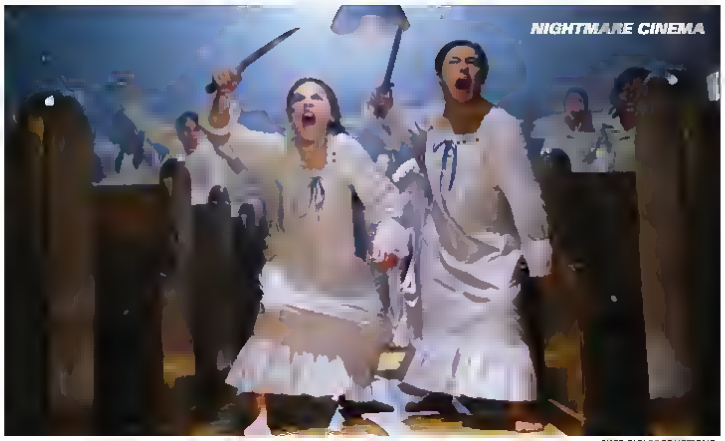
Trainspotting. A young man (Ewan McGregor) tries to exit the Edinburgh drug scene despite the influence of his druggie friends. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri., 11:55 p.m., Sat., 10 p.m., Sun., 8 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Deconstructing the Beatles: Abbey Road Side One. Composer, music historian and Beatles enthusiast Scott Freeman breaks down the 1969 masterpiece album. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m. $9-$12.*

Nightmare Cinema. A chilling new anthology features segments helmed by respected genre filmmakers Joe Dante (*Gremlins*), Mick Garris (*The Stand*), David Slade (*30 Days of Night*), Ryuhei Kitamura (*Midnight Meat Train*) and Alejandro Brugues (*Juan of the Dead*). *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sat., 7:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part. Lego Duplo space invaders are wrecking everything. *Orange County Great Park, (949) 724-6880. Sat., 8:15 p.m. Free.*

The Other Side of Home. A Turkish woman goes to Armenia to take part in the 100th commemoration of the 1915 genocide and explores her conflicted identity of suffering and denial. *Forty Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church; okapis.org/events. Sun., 2 p.m. $10; members, free.*



NICE GUY PRODUCTIONS

Forrest Gump. The titular idiot (Tom Hanks) failed *up* through the Vietnam War, space launches and the launch of Apple. *Various theaters, www.fathomevents.com. Sun. & Tues., 3 & 7 p.m. $11.39-$15.39.*

Quadrophenia. Jimmy (Phil Daniels), who loathes his job and parents, seeks solace in the U.K. mod scene, only to be let down. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Mon.-Tues., 2:30 & 5:30 p.m., Wed., 8 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Terminator 2: Judgment Day. The 1991 sequel in which a new cyborg (Arnold) now tries to protect Sarah Connor's young son John (Edward Furlong). *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Mon.-Tues., 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

The Harder They Come. A young Jamaican reggae singer (Jimmy Cliff) must deal with drug pushers and corrupt record producers. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Mon.-Tues., 8 p.m., Wed., 2:30 & 5:30 p.m., Thurs., June 27, 2:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Kinky Boots the Musical. Factory owner Charlie (Killian Donnelly) and fabulous entertainer Lola (Matt Henry) embrace their differences to create a line of sturdy stilettos. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Tues., 7 p.m. $18.*

The Met Live in HD: La Boheme. The world's most popular opera, about six impoverished young bohemians, surviving only on laughter and the promise of love, is sung in Italian with English subtitles. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Wed., 1 & 7 p.m. $12.50.*

Predator. A team of commandos (led by Schwarzenegger) is hunted by an extra-terrestrial in a Central American jungle. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Wed., 2:30, 5 & 8:30 p.m. $7-$10.50.*

Raiders of the Lost Ark. Archaeologist Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is hired by the U.S. government to beat the Nazis to the Ark of the Covenant. *Starlight Cinema City, 5635 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, (714) 970-6700. Wed., 7 p.m. $5-$12.*

Jaws. A police chief (Roy Scheider), an ichthyologist (Richard Dreyfuss) and a grizzled sea captain (Robert Shaw) hunt a great white shark that's been snacking on a small coastal town's tourists. *Regency South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $9.*

La La Land. A struggling jazz-piano man (Ryan Gosling) and a struggling actress (Emma Stone) fall in toe tapping love. But can the relationship survive their respective careers taking off? *Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Thurs., June 27, 1 p.m. Free.*

Flax to Fire. The 2017 documentary about the life and work of elite Iranian industrialist and entrepreneur Aliasghar Hajibaba. *UC Irvine, (949) 824-6117. Thurs., June 27, 6:30 p.m. Free, but you must RSVP at bit.ly/2Xntryp.*

Our Time Machine. When Chinese conceptual artist Maleonn's father, former Shanghai Chinese Opera Theater artistic director Ma Ke, is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Maleonn pours everything into *Papa's Time Machine*, an ambitious new theater project. *OCMAExpand, www.ocmaexpand.org. Thurs., June 27, 7 p.m. Free, but RSVP to info@ocma.net because seating is first come-first served.*

Ghostbusters. Paranormal scientists (Bill Murray-Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis) luck out of their university gigs and luck into an in-demand ghost eradication business as New York City is gripped by untold evil. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., June 27, 7:30 p.m. Call for ticket prices.*

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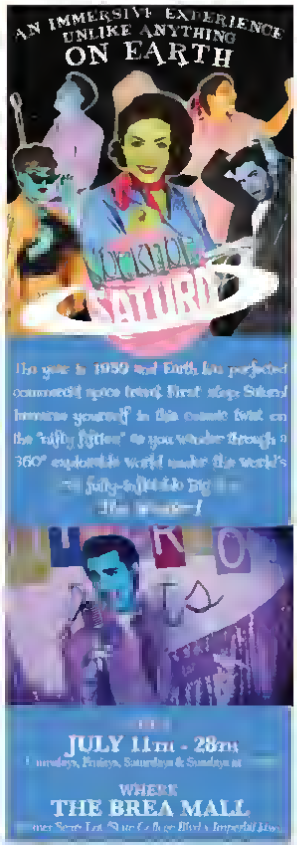

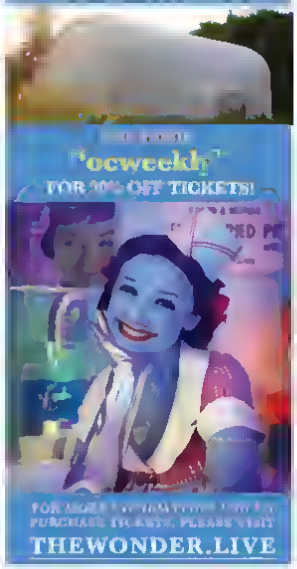

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I've Been Everywhere, Man

A look at four favorite U.S. tour destinations

If it weren't for music, I never would have gone anywhere in my life. Dreams of travel to exotic, historic or otherwise far-away destinations would have never been realized. At one point in time, I had considered a career as a flight attendant, but then, quite by accident, music happened. My parents bought me a guitar at age 12 and enrolled me in group lessons, where I learned to play "Jambalaya" and "Michael Row the Boat Ashore." I continued to connect the dots until I arrived here, sitting on a plane bound for London. In the decades that have passed since those group lessons, I have traveled to most major cities, tourist traps and hell-holes worldwide. Though it is by no means a comprehensive list, what follows are some gems, in my opinion, of U.S. tour destinations.

COURTESY OF BRAD LOGAN

LAWRENCE, KANSAS: I was so enamored by this city that I married a girl from here, moved here and lived here for five years. It is home to the University of Kansas (a.k.a. KU), and its downtown is a straight-up Norman Rockwell painting come to life. Lawrence grew bands such as the Get Up Kids, Coalesce and the Appleseed Cast as though they were wheat. It also had a punk club in a cornfield called the Outhouse, which hosted all the legendary hardcore and indie bands of the '80s and '90s. Beat author William S. Burroughs even spent the last years of his life here when he burned out on NYC. Venues of note include Liberty Hall; the Granada theater, the Bottleneck for larger shows; and the Replay Lounge for small shows, low door prices and cheap beer. New all-ages DIY space the White Schoolhouse presents community events, as well as shows from local and touring bands.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN: Legendary Midwest bastion of the auto industry; home of Motown Records (Four Tops, Supremes, Jackson 5); and mother to OG bands such as Negative Approach, Funkadelic, Adult (period) and Eminem. This town bleeds music, and if you've ever played a show here, you understand why Paul Stanley had to drive his Camaro head-on into a Mack Truck after losing his mind in DETROITROCKCITY! The audiences here are like no other in the U.S.; they lose their shit when you play. It's also home to the Jack White-founded Third Man Records (where you can watch records being pressed through the front windows of the plant/shop), which is just down the street from my favorite Motor City venue, the Magic Stick (which is now called the Majestic), a combination live-music venue and bowling alley that serves tater tots. What more could you ask for?

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA: NYC is dead and gone; long live Philly. Revered for its sense of community and diversity, Philadelphia has a bit of everything: cool-ass architecture, food, art, bands, record shops and venues of all sizes. There's Union Transfer (large), Voltage Lounge (medium); and, among the small and DIY, PhilaMOCA, Kung Fu Necktie, Everybody Hits and Creep Records. Check out the Mütter Museum at the College of Physicians to have your mind blown, South Street shopping to blow your cash, and vegan diner the Tasty in South Philly if cheesesteaks aren't your thing.

WAFFLE HOUSE IN ANY CITY: Sketchy as fuck, on tour would be complete without a stop at one of the 2,100 Waffle House locations that dot the mostly Southern portion of the U.S. Since 1955, it's been doling out waffles, eggs, hash browns, grits and butter to road-weary drivers. It appeals to van tours mostly because it's cheap, quick and 24/365. The '50s-diner atmosphere, 16-item menu and yellow glow of the Waffle House sign provide a comfort and familiarity in the post-gig small-hour darkness. Even though you know you are headed for a possible catastrophic, gastrointestinal apocalypse, it's an experience every musician should have. C'mon, take one for the team.

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7/2T	SKELETON CREW (GRATEFUL DEAD TRIBUTE)
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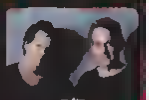
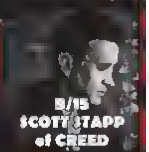
8/3	NONK
8/4	AN INTIMATE EVENING OF MUSIC AND CONVERSATION WITH JEFF BRIDGES / BEAT ROOT REVIVAL
8/7	THE BACON BROTHERS
8/9	SUBLIMED
8/15	THE PLATTERS W/ SPECIAL GUEST THE DRIFTERS
8/15	THE FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS
8/1T	LA GUNS
8/21	JUSTIN HAYWARD
8/28	SAVOY BROWN
8/30	CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER
8/31	WILD CHILD
9/6	SHBAM
9/7	THE BABYS
9/8	GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
9/12	ADRIAN BELEW
9/14	LED ZEPAGAIN
9/18	SCOTT STAPP OF CREED
9/20	HERMAN'S HERMITS


8/7 THE BACON BROTHERS

9/15 THE PLATTERS

8/30 CINDERELLA'S TOM KEIFER

8/7 THE BABYS


9/15 SCOTT STAPP of CREED

10/5 GEOFF TATE'S Operation Mindcrime

UPCOMING SHOWS

9/21	HERMAN'S HERMITS	11/1	OINGO BOINGO
9/22	GARY PUCKETT		FORMER MEMBERS
9/27	QUEEN NATION	11/2	TYRONE WELLS - THE LIFT ME UP TOUR
9/2E	QUEEN NATION		
10/4	TRASHCAN DIVATRAS	11/E	SUPER DIAMOND
10/5	GEOFF TATE'S OPERATION: MINDCRIME	11/10	DAVID WILCOX
		12/7	BLUE OYSTER CULT
		12/20	GARY NO HO NONEY
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10/13	JUDY COLLINS		
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Why Not Me?

I found your column after a Google search. I saw your email address at the bottom and was hoping for some insight. My issue is this: Two years into our 23-year marriage, my wife declared that she didn't want to kiss me or perform oral on me. Several years ago, she had an affair and confessed that she not only kissed this other person, but performed oral on them as well. Why them and not me? Should I just go find someone willing to do what I want? I have a high sex drive, but I find that I don't want to sleep with my wife anymore because there is never any foreplay and a few minutes into it, she's telling me to hurry up. I don't feel wanted, and honestly I no longer desire her. What do you make of this?

Hurting Unwanted Husband

Before telling you what I make of your email, HUH, I want to tell you what I wish I could make out of your email: a time machine. If I could turn all those pixels and code and whatever else into a working time machine, I'd try to talk you out of marrying your wife or into leaving her after two years of marriage. But since time machines aren't a thing—at least not yet—we'll have to talk about the here and now.

Your wife isn't attracted to you and never was, or hasn't been for a long, long time. And now the feeling is mutual—you aren't attracted to her anymore, either. And if you're seriously wondering why she kissed and blew that other person—the person with whom she had an affair—when she hasn't wanted to kiss or blow you for 20 plus years, HUH, the answer is as painful as it is obvious: Your wife was attracted to her affair partner (that's why them), and she's not attracted to you (that's why not you).

Now, it's possible your wife was attracted to you a long time ago, I assume she was kissing and blowing you while you were dating and during the couple of dozen months of marriage. But at some point relatively early in your marriage, HUH, your wife's desire to swallow your spit and inhale your dick evaporated. It's possible her desire to swallow/inhale the spit/dick of her affair partner would have evaporated in roughly the same amount of time, and she would have lost interest in him and his dick and his spit, as well. Some people have a hard time sustaining desire over time—and contrary to popular belief, women have a harder time sustaining desire in committed, romantic relationships than men do.

Of course, it's possible your wife isn't the problem. You may have said or done something that extinguished your wife's desire for you. Or, hey, maybe your personal hygiene leaves everything to be desired. Or maybe you're emotionally distant or cold or contemptuous or incredibly shitty in bed. Or maybe you're not the problem! I don't know you, HUH, and other than the very few details you included in your very brief letter, I don't know what's going on in your marriage.

But I do know this: If you can leave, HUH, you most likely should. But if you decide to stay because you want to stay, or because leaving is unthinkable for cultural or religious or financial reasons . . . well, seeing as how your wife hasn't wanted to fuck you for decades, and seeing as how you no longer want to fuck your wife, you should release each other from the monogamous commitment you made more than two decades ago. If you can adjust your expectations—if you can both agree to define your marriage as companionate, i.e., you're friends and life partners, not romantic or sexual partners—you may be able to appreciate your marriage for what it is. But to do that, you'll have to let go of the anger and disappointment you feel over what it's not.

And to be clear: If your marriage is companionate, you should both be free to seek sex with outside partners.

SavageLove

» DAN SAVAGE

How do you keep things exciting once the shiny, new phase of a relationship is over? Is it normal to reach a stage where you know someone so well that they've become boring? Isn't that just the fucking worst?

Same Old, Same Old

Recognizing that some people actually enjoy boring—I have it on good authority that some people can get a thrill knitting sweaters and sitting still—there is something the rest of us can do to keep things exciting once the shiny, new phase of a relationship is over. Go on strange and exciting new adventures together. Early on in the relationship, SOSO, your new partner was your exciting new adventure, and you were theirs. But now instead of *being* the exciting new adventure, you have to figure out what exciting new adventures you'd like to go on together—and then get out there and go on them.

I'm a young, nonbinary ethical slut, and I have a question about a kink that one of my partners is discovering. We are very close, although we are not sexually active with each other at this point (we are currently long-distance). She has another partner with whom she is currently exploring "little" play. I feel personally uncomfortable with age-regression play, but I obviously want to be supportive and understanding. We have fairly good communication, and I am able to tell her when I feel uncomfortable and that I still love and support her, but I just can't talk about "little" play at the time. I would love to be able to talk about it with her and be supportive, and at the very least make sure I don't say anything ignorant or hurtful to her. How can I stretch my zone of comfort and learn about this kink in a healthy and educated way?

A Little Uncomfortable

If you want to get more comfortable discussing "little" play, i.e., adults pretending to be small children with other consenting adults, the *Dream a Little* podcast is a good place to start. It's hosted by Lo, an AB/DL (adult baby/diaper lover) who recently made an appearance in this column. That said, ALU, you aren't obligated to listen to your partner talk about this kink if the topic makes you uncomfortable—or just bores you senseless. Tell her that you support her and you know it's exciting to explore a new kink, and while she doesn't have to hide this from you, it's not something you're comfortable—at least for now—discussing at length.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), Stéphane Deschênes on living the nudist life. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*

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What's the point of going on vacation if you're not going to spend it getting higher than a giraffe's ass on a Jet Ski in crystal-clear salt water? Since gas prices aren't getting any cheaper, why should we leave when we have the pleasure of living in a place that most people work their entire lives to visit once. Call me crazy, but the weather is usually amazing, there's great food on every corner, and there's also this little plant called cannabis that happens to be completely legal. With beaches, camping, hiking, and shopping all readily available within a few miles, why should I have to strap myself into a tinfoil cylinder and try to fight gravity for a few hours in order to see a lame version of my own city?

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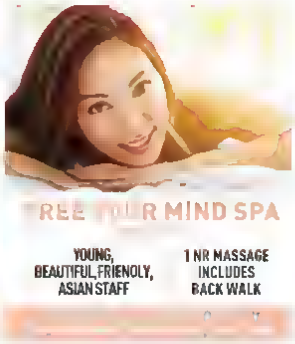
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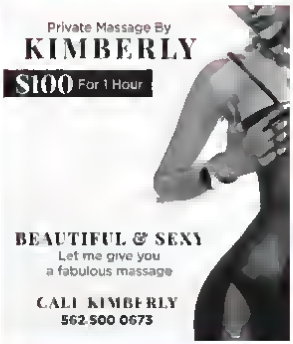
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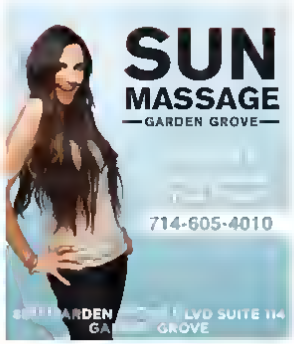
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WAKIN' AND BAKIN' IN IDYLLWILD

PHOTOS BY GREG NAGEL

TAKE A RELAXING WEEKEND IN THE LOCAL MOUNTAINS

BY GREG NAGEL

It was a boring winter day when my wife suggested a mountain getaway. "Great, we'll be surrounded by tourists and slope bunnies and get gouged by spendy cabins," I replied.

"Idyllwild has this place that's a 'bud and breakfast,'" she said. "The rooms are even all themed, sort of like the Madonna Inn. There's even a 420 room. Should I book it?"

I agreed to the trip, but not before remarking, "I didn't think anything cool ever happened in Idyllwild."

Turns out, the quaint town is full of character and great spots to eat, and it has some crazy beautiful hikes. Plus, it's fairly close.

The road from Orange County to Idyllwild used to be a straight shot across the 10 to Banning, but the road suffered massive erosion this past winter, completely wiping out around 20 sections. The only way up now is through either Moreno Valley or Temecula, but the latter is a better pit stop for lunch and a proper booze haul for the weekend.

At the halfway there point, you'll find **Cheflavor** *(32119 Temecula Pkwy., Temecula, 951-972-4935, www.cheflavor.com)*, a one-stop gourmet shop with a few local beers on tap, one of the biggest gastropub burgers I've ever seen, and fridges full of beer and wine to go. Since check-in at the B&B isn't until 2 p.m., you also have time to visit one of the 40-ish wineries in town.

If you're a fan of champagne, I recommend **Carter Estate Winery** *(34450 Rancho California Rd., Temecula, 844-851-2138, www.carterestatewinery.com)*. It uses an age-old production technique called méthode champenoise, which producers such as Dom Perignon employ to create $100-plus bottles of bubbles. "The finer the bubbles, the higher quality the wine," noted our winetender. We sampled the Brut, Brut Noir and the Brut de Blanc before I jokingly exclaimed in a French accent, "I'll have the Brut to go!" Bottles cost around $30.

If beer is your thing, **Black Market Brewing** *(41740 Enterprise Circle N., Ste. 109, Temecula, 951-296-5039, blackmarketbrew.com)* recently won a medal at the Great American Beer Festival for its hazy double IPA, and if you love fruit beers, **Refuge Brewery**'s Blood Orange Wit *(43040 Rancho Way, Temecula, 951-506-0609, www.refugebeer)* is a perfect match for your mountain-weekend vibe.

Onward to **Hicksville Pines Bud & Breakfast** *(23481 CA-243, Idyllwild, 310-584-1086, www.hicksville.com/idyllwild/motel.html)*. The place gives detailed instructions for first-time visitors, including specific check-in times and advice to call before heading up the hill. On arrival, you'll find a bright purple A-frame and a tree-shaped sign that says, 'Chalets and Motel.' The whole aesthetic reeks of a David Lynch set, and to no surprise, there's an actual Great Northern-inspired room stocked with *Twin Peaks* music on vinyl and the Agent Cooper tapes on cassette.

With our old-school motel key in one hand and a little weed-nug gift in the other, we headed to the Honeymoon Suite, which comes complete with a waterbed, heart-shaped tub on shag carpet, and the same model toilet Elvis died on. "Only a hundred were made, and eight survived the molding process," notes the caretaker. "And this is one of 'em."

Out of the 10 rooms, there's a 420 room that has a sunk-in mattress, black-light posters on the ceiling and an in-room snack machine. The Dita room was decorated by the famous burlesque queen. There's a John Waters-inspired room, and for the Disney Goths, there's a Haunted Mansion room with the same wallpaper as the ride's.

Chill with the other guests by playing darts or shuffleboard, or hit the communal vape in the jukebox-blasting game room. If you just want to zone out among huge pine trees, head to the Jacuzzi overlooking the valley or partake in ayahuasca inside the glowing teepee late at night.

Going into town is a quick Lyft in the busy seasons. Otherwise, Hicksville has a concierge for those in full potato mode. We got **Fratello's Ristorante & Pizzaria** *(54295 Ridgeview Dr., Idyllwild, 951-659-3900, www.fratellosidyllwild.com)* delivered with a flat $10 fee.

But in the morning, don't miss out on the famous Hicksville green weed waffles!

Idyllwild's town is notably well-lived-in, locally owned and oozing with personality. **IDYology** *(54905 N. Circle Dr., Idyllwild, 951-659-5962, www.idyologyidyllwild.com)* is a perfect spot to chill with cocktails, craft beers and a hefty American-style menu. In the winter, dine inside next to the roaring fireplace, but in summer, there's nothing quite like the open patio surrounded by pine trees.

For the caffeine-depraved, **El Buan Cacao** *(54423 Village Center Dr., Ste. 4, Idyllwild, 760-333-7690, www.elbuencacao.com)* is a must stop, even though no coffee is served here. Husband and wife Erik and Jessica Ramirez-Landis create pure chocolate from scratch and serve up decadent sipping chocolate and, my fave, the iced chocolate, which is surprisingly earthy and buzz-inducing.

Since Idyllwild sits along the Pacific Crest Trail that runs from Mexico to Canada, there are a lot of trail options. Check alltrails.com to find a good match to your skill level, or stop in at the **Idyllwild Nature Center** *(25225 CA-243, Idyllwild, 951-659-3850, www.rivcoparks.org/idyllwild-nature-center)*.

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